

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 14 and 23 as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, comprising:

an operation input unit for inputting external operations that designate corresponding functions of the camera to be performed;

an image pickup unit for capturing an image of an object;

a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit on a recording medium;

a playback unit having a display for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium; and

a mode selector for selecting one operation mode of the camera from a plurality of available operation modes that include an operation explanation mode,

wherein if the operation explanation mode is selected at the mode selector, the playback unit plays back on the display an operation guide that is pre-stored in a memory, the operation guide explaining at least one of the external operations and corresponding camera functions thereof and wherein at least the operation input unit, the recorder, the display, and the mode selector are enclosed within a main camera body.

Claim 2 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein while the electronic camera is set to the operation explanation mode by the mode selector, the playback unit plays back the operation guide for the camera operation that is designated by the operation input unit.

Claim 3 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 2, wherein while the electronic camera is set to the operation explanation mode by the mode selector, the playback unit plays back the operation guide for the camera operation that is inputted by the operation input unit without actually performing the corresponding camera function designated by that camera operation.

Claim 4 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising a recording medium drive for driving a detachable recording medium,

wherein the mode selector automatically selects the operation explanation mode in response to attachment to the recording medium drive of the detachable recording medium having the operation guide stored thereon.

Claim 5 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 4, wherein the recorder records the image created by the image pickup unit on the detachable recording medium.

Claim 6 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising an internal memory having the operation guide stored thereon.

Claim 7 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the mode selector is externally accessible to select one of the operation modes of the camera.

Claim 8 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 7, wherein the mode selector includes a mode selection button adapted to select one of the operation modes of the camera.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the playback unit further comprises a sound reproducing device, and plays back the operation guide in the form of sound.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the playback unit plays back the operation guide on the display in the form of images.

Claim 11 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein when the operation explanation mode is selected at the mode selector, the playback unit automatically plays back an operation guide that explains overall operations of the electronic camera.

Claim 12 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the operation input unit includes mechanical switches that each can be operated to designate the corresponding functions of the camera.

Claim 13 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein the operation input unit includes touch screen switches that each can be operated to designate the corresponding functions of the camera.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An electronic camera, comprising:

an operation input unit for inputting external operations that designate corresponding functions of the camera;

an image pickup unit for capturing an image of an object;

a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit on a recording medium;

a playback unit having a display for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium;

a mode selector for selecting a function diagnosis mode; and

a function tester for testing ~~functions of the camera~~ at least one function designated by said operation input unit if the function diagnosis mode is selected by the mode selector, the functions of the camera to be tested including functions of at least one of the image pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, wherein at least the recorder, the display, the mode selector, and the function tester are enclosed within a main camera body.

Claim 15 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 14, wherein the image pickup unit captures the image in accordance with an external operation specifying an image pickup function of the image pickup unit, and

wherein while the camera is set to the function diagnosis mode by the mode sector, the function tester tests the image pickup function of the image pickup unit specified by the external operation.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The electronic camera according to claim 14, wherein the playback unit further comprises a sound reproducing device, and plays back image information that is recorded on the recording medium in accordance with an external operation specifying a playback function of the playback unit, and wherein while the camera is set to the function diagnosis mode by the mode selector, the function tester tests the playback function of the playback unit specified by the external operation.

Claim 17 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 14, wherein the playback unit includes a display unit for displaying test results generated by the function tester.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, the electronic camera comprising:

a mode selector externally switchable to select one of a function diagnosis mode and a normal mode;

an operation input unit for inputting external operations that initiate corresponding functions of the camera while the camera is in the normal mode;

an image pickup unit for capturing the image of an object in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation unit while the camera is in the normal mode;

a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode;

a playback unit having a display for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode; and

a function tester for testing functions of at least one of the operation input unit, the image pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, when the function diagnosis mode is selected by the mode selector, wherein at least the mode selector, the operation input unit, the recorder, the display, and the function tester are enclosed within a main camera body.

Claim 19 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 19, wherein the function tester automatically tests functions of at least one of the operation input unit, the image pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, in response to the selection of the function diagnosis mode by the mode selector.

Claim 20 (Original): The electronic camera according to claim 18, wherein while the camera is set to the function diagnosis mode by the mode selector, the function tester tests the function of the camera that would be initiated in response to the external operation if the camera were in the normal mode.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, the electronic camera comprising:

a mode selector externally switchable to select one of an operation explanation mode, a function diagnosis mode, and a normal mode;

an operation input unit for inputting external operations that initiate corresponding functions of the camera while the camera is in the normal mode;

an image pickup unit for capturing the image of an object in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode;

a recorder for recording the image captured by the image pickup unit in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode;

a playback unit having a display for at least playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium in accordance with the external operations inputted through the operation input unit while the camera is in the normal mode; and

a function tester for testing functions of at least one of the operation input unit, the image pickup unit, the recorder, and the playback unit, when the function diagnosis mode is selected by the mode selector,

wherein if the operation explanation mode is selected at the mode selector, the playback unit plays back an operation guide that is pre-stored in a memory, the operation guide explaining at least one of the camera operations and functions thereof and wherein at least the operation input unit, the recorder, the display, and the function tester are enclosed within a main camera body.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): An electronic camera having a plurality of functions including capturing and recording images, comprising:

input means for inputting external operations that designate corresponding functions of the camera to be performed;

capture means for capturing an image of an object;

recording means for recording the image captured by the capturing means on a recording medium;

playback means having a display for playing back image information that is recorded on the recording means; and

selecting means for selecting an operation mode of the camera from a plurality of available operation modes, where one operation mode is an operation explanation mode,

wherein if the operation explanation mode is selected at the selecting means, the playback means plays back an operation guide that is pre-stored in a memory, the operation guide explaining at least one of the external operations and corresponding camera functions thereof and wherein at least the input means, the recording means, and the selecting means are enclosed within a main camera body.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): An electronic camera, comprising:

inputting means for inputting external operations that designate corresponding functions of the camera;

capturing means for capturing an image of an object;

recording means for recording the image captured by the capturing means on a recording medium;

playback means having a display for playing back image information that is recorded on the recording medium;

selecting means for selecting a function diagnosis mode; and

testing means for testing ~~functions of the camera~~ at least one function designated by said inputting means if the function diagnosis mode is selected by the selecting means, the functions of the camera to be tested including functions of at least one of the capturing means, the recording means, and the playback means, wherein at least the recording means, the selecting means, and the testing means are enclosed within a main camera body.